

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9683

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER'S VIEWS ON FEBRUARY MEETING

HERE

DURING THE FAREWELL LUNCHEON WHICH FOREIGN SECRETARY RABASA HELD FOR ME, HE WAS ASKED A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FORTHCOMING MEETING WHICH WILL BE HELD HERE OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE HEMISPHERE. IN REPLY TO ONE QUERY, HE SAID HE THOUGHT THAT THIS TYPE OF MEETING SHOULD BE AN ANNUAL AFFAIR AS THIS WAY A PERMANENT DIALOGUE COULD BE OPENED. IN ANSWERING A QUESTION ABOUT HOW LATIN AMERICANS' EIGHT POINTS WOULD BE PRESENTED TO THE SECRETARY, HE SAID THIS WOULD BE DETERMINED DURING THE PRELIMINARY THREE DAYS WHEN THE LATIN AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD MEET ALONE. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT THE LATIN AMERICANS WOULD STILL BE GLAD TO DISCUSS ADDITIONAL POINTS WHICH U.S. MIGHT PROPOSE BUT ADDED THAT HE HAD NO IDEA WHAT THESE MIGHT BE. RABASA ALSO SAID THAT HE WAS ANXIOUSLY AWAITING WORD AS TO SIZE AND REQUIREMENTS OF DIFFERENT DELEGATIONS WHICH HE HAD REQUESTED. HOWEVER, HE SAID HE HAD LITTLE INFORMATION ON THIS POINT YET. FINALLY HE SAID HE HOPED THAT THE MEETING WOULD REALLY BE MEANINGFUL AND WOULD CONCLUDE IN A COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY ALL OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS. WITH REGARD TO THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THIS MEETING AND THE OAS, HE SAID THAT THE TWO WERE QUITE SEPARATE BECAUSE THE OAS HAD BECOME STERILE

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AND ALMOST MEANINGLESS WHEREAS THIS MEETING OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS COULD BE ENTIRELY SEPARATE. HE DID SAY THAT THE

FOREIGN MINISTERS WERE NOT REALLY EQUIPPED TO DISCUSS
REFORM OF THE OAS WHICH SHOULD BE HANDLED BY TECHNICIANS.
MCBRIDE

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